Floating of infrastructure bonds

782. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of financial institutions allowed to float infrastructure bonds during the last three years ending 31st March, 2006;

(b) the amount collected by each institution during the period year-wise and the rate of interest paid to the investors during the same period, years-wise; and

(c) the areas in which investment was utilised and is proposed to be utilized for the development of infrastructure during the above period and in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Deposit in Post Office Savings Bank Accounts

783. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(A) the deposits in the Post Office savings bank accounts in the country as on 31st March, 2006, postal circle-wise and how do they compare with those at the end of previous two years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the maximum limit of rupees one lakhs in such accounts as most of the citizens in the rural areas have their deposits in such accounts, if so, to what extent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, in view of the rate of interest of 3.5 per cent per annum in such accounts being below the current inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL):(a) The deposits under the Post Office Savings Bank Account scheme (POSA) at the close of 31.03.2006 is Rs. 16790 crore. Postal circle-wise details for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).